

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An intervertebral spacer device, comprising:

first and second plate members, each having plate surfaces thereof, said plate members being disposed in a spaced apart relationship such that inner ones of said plate surfaces oppose one another, and external ones of said plate surfaces face in opposite directions; and

at least one multi-pronged domed spring restoring force providing element disposed between the inner plate surfaces of said first and second plate members, and disposed such that a compressive load applied to the ~~eternal~~external plate surfaces of said plate members is counteracted by said at least one multi-pronged domed spring restoring force providing element-, wherein said at least one multi-pronged domed spring restoring force providing element further comprises a central opening which includes a curvate volume for receiving and holding therein a ball-shaped head.

2. (previously presented) The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of said external plate surfaces of said first and second plate members comprises a porous coating.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)